



Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Ted Boyer
Executive Director

Craig Jackson
Director, Occupational and
Professional Licensing

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South/Box 146701
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-7601
(801) 530-6955
Fax: (801) 530-6446
E-mail: Commerce@utah.gov
Web: www.commerce.utah.gov
TDD: (801) 530-6917

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Contact: Scott Thompson
(801) 530-6487

Buying Prescription Drugs from Foreign Countries is Illegal

You have probably already seen the advertisements running in Utah's major newspapers claiming you can save money by buying your prescription drugs through the mail from Canada. Utah's Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) along with the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) want to alert Utah residents that this practice is illegal and potentially unsafe.

Buying prescription drugs from Canada or any other foreign country violates the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. It is illegal for anyone other than a US drug manufacturer to import prescription drugs into this country. Drugs from other countries are not FDA approved and may not be held to the same standards as drugs that are sold in the US. Prescription drugs from outside the US could be outdated or contaminated or counterfeit or may contain too much or too little of the active ingredient. Individuals and businesses that ship prescription drugs from foreign countries in Utah are in violation of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

In Utah, only a licensed pharmacist can distribute prescription drugs and only licensed pharmacies can sell drugs to consumers. To check to see if a pharmacy or pharmacist is licensed in Utah, please visit DOPL's website at www.dopl.utah.gov and click on the link to "Verify a License."

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